

Hyde County Health Department

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For Release: Immediate
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Confirmed Case of Rabies in Hyde County

SWAN QUARTER, NC – The Hyde County Health Department reports a confirmed case of rabies in Hyde County in the Swan Quarter area. On April 22nd, a raccoon attacked a resident's dog. During the attack, the raccoon was killed by the dog. The owners of the dog reported the incident to Hyde County's Animal Control Officer. On April 23rd, the raccoon's head was sent to the State Laboratory of Public Health for rabies testing. On April 24th, the State Lab informed the Health Director that the raccoon tested positive for rabies.

If you are bitten by a wild or stray animal, contact a physician immediately. Bites from wild terrestrial carnivores present a high risk of rabies exposure. Notify animal control immediately if you have any exposure to raccoons, skunks, foxes, coyotes, bobcats or large rodents such as beavers, so that the animal can be collected for testing if possible. Animal control agencies are listed online at www.ncarca.com.

If there is a chance you may have been exposed to rabies, or if the animal is caught and it tests positive for rabies, you may need to get a series of shots to prevent rabies disease. You cannot wait to see if you get sick, because there is no known cure once the disease develops.

Human rabies vaccine is available for people who have been exposed to rabies.

Rabies is a fatal disease, but people can protect themselves and their families by following these common-sense guidelines. And if people do come into contact with a potentially rabid animal, it is important to know to see a doctor right away.

For more information on rabies, see the N.C. Division of Public Health's rabies website at <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/diseases/rabies.html> or contact Hugh Watson, Environmental Health Specialist, at 252-926-4380.